



Smithsonian
Archives of American Art

Oral history interview with Elizabeth Saltonstall

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Oral history interview with Elizabeth Saltonstall
Identifier:	AAA.salton81
Date:	1981 November 18
Extent:	34 Pages (Transcript)
Creator:	Saltonstall, Elizabeth, 1900-1990 Brown, Robert F.
Language:	English

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

This interview is part of the Archives of American Art Oral History Program, started in 1958 to document the history of the visual arts in the United States, primarily through interviews with artists, historians, dealers, critics and administrators.

Biographical / Historical

Elizabeth Saltonstall (1900-1990) was a painter, printmaker, and instructor of Chestnut Hill, Mass.

Scope and Contents

An interview of Elizabeth Saltonstall conducted 1981 November 18, by Robert F. Brown, for the Archives of American Art.

Scope and Contents

Saltonstall discusses her experiences with art as a child in Boston (mentioning Frank Weston Benson as an influence) and her subsequent art education at the Winsor School, the art school of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, and independent study in Paris. She remembers the various teaching styles of the Museum School faculty (Frederick A. Bosley, Henry Hunt Clark, Anson K. Cross, Philip Leslie Hale, Alexander James, and Leslie P. Thompson), especially as they contrasted with French teaching methods. She also speaks of her teachers in France and on Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket (including Frank Swift Chase), and recalls some of her co-students (including Josef Presser). Particular mention is made of a lithography workshop taught by Stow Wengenroth, and of George C. Miller, who printed her lithography stones. Her cousin, Nathaniel Saltonstall, is discussed as a patron of the arts, especially his contributions

to the establishment of the Institute of Modern Art [Institute of Contemporary Art] in Boston. She touches also on her own teaching career at Winsor School and Milton Academy, and her involvement with the Boston Society of Independent Artists and the Grace Horn Gallery.

General

Originally recorded on 1 sound cassette. Reformatted in 2010 as 2 digital wav files. Duration is 1 hr., 25 min.

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

- Art -- Study and teaching -- France -- Paris
- Art -- Study and teaching -- Massachusetts
- Art teachers -- Massachusetts -- Interviews
- Painters -- Massachusetts -- Interviews
- Printmakers -- Massachusetts -- Interviews
- Women artists -- Massachusetts -- Interviews

Types of Materials:

- Interviews
- Sound recordings

Names:

- Benson, Frank Weston, 1862-1951
- Bosley, Frederick A., 1881-1942
- Boston Society of Independent Artists
- Chase, Frank Swift, 1886-1958
- Clark, Henry Hunt
- Cross, Anson K., 1862-1944
- Hale, Philip Leslie, 1865-1931
- Institute of Contemporary Art (Boston, Mass.)
- Institute of Modern Art (Boston, Mass.)
- James, Alexander, 1890-1946
- Miller, George Charles, b. 1894
- Milton Academy (Milton, Mass.) -- Faculty
- Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. School
- Presser, Josef, 1909-1967
- Saltonstall, Nathaniel, 1903-1968
- Thompson, Leslie P.
- Wengenroth, Stow, 1906-1978
- Winsor School (Boston, Mass.) -- Faculty
- Winsor School (Boston, Mass.) -- Students

Occupations:

- Art patrons -- Massachusetts -- Boston